

If Grandpapa Were Santa Claus!



If Grandpapa were Santa Claus, how happy we would be! When toyshop toil was finished he would take us on each knee. He'd tell us all his secrets and he'd name the pretty toys He'd made and kept in hiding for the other girls and boys.

We have a real, live Grandpapa! He visits us each year, And he is quite a bosom friend of Santa Claus, I hear. Although he owns no reindeer, and of playthings no great store -If Grandpapa were Santa Claus, we could not love him more! GENE MORGAN.

Christmas Spirit Almost Universally Felt, But What It Is Remains a Mystery to Many.

The emotional value of Christmas may be said to be universally felt. Something happens at Christmas that, if only for a day or two, does the whole world good. What that something is remains for many a mystery. A number of persons who feel the renewing impulse are like Faust when the notes of the Easter song arrest his suicidal intent; they take and enjoy the moment's deliverance and con- Monthly. tinue to regard the source of the boon as nothing more than mythology made potent through human associations. Others are moved through superstitious fears; they approach the great senson with consciences crowded with uncomfortable memories: Marley's

Do not decorate your Christmas

Do not leave matches within reach of the children.

mable decorations only

Set the tree upon a substantial stand. A house of merriment is better than a house of mourning.

Gathering of Plant Sacred Rite

in Druidical Religious Festivals.

Also Considered a Potent Remedy for Ills, a Belief Which Still Exists in Some of the Remote Places of Europe.

sprays of mistletoe at Christmas time, but few of us know the history of it as a En de good Lawd knows, dough I sez Yuletide symbol. Pretty "Not yit," Yuletide symbol. Pretty girls are kissed under it and a great deal of fun and nonsense is En I projick en plan, en I skimp en carried on apropos of it, but no one stops to think of how ancient a decoration it is or how sacred it was once thought to be.

Almost everybody has a vague knowledge that the Druids of old had something to do with the gathering of mistletoe, but just what that something was is not clear to the average mind.

The fact is that the ancient Celts in their druidical religion had two great festivals, one in June and the other in December, the latter being equivalent to our Christmas. In both of these great festivals the gathering of the mistletoe was a sacred rite.

Pliny in his "Natural History" describes the ceremony. Speaking of the Druids' worship of the oak, he says: "They believe that whatever grows on these trees is sent from heaven and is a sign that the tree has been chosen by the god himself. The mistletoe is very rarely to be met with, but when it is found they gather it with solemn ceremony. This they do especially on the sixth day of the moon, because by the sixth day the moon has plenty of vigor and has not run half its course.

"After the preparations have been made for a sacrifice and a feast under the tree they hall it as the universal healer and bring to the spot two white bulls whose horns have never been bound before. A priest clad in a white robe climbs the tree and with a golden sickle cuts the mistletoe, which is eaught in a white cloth. Then they sacrifice the victims, praying that God may make his own gift to prosper with those upon whom he has bestowed it.

"They believe that a potion prepared from mistletoe will increase their flocks and that the plant is a remedy against all poison."

It was believed to be a remedy for many ills, and this belief is still to be found in many remote places in Europe. In Holstein, for example, the mistletoe is regarded as a healing remedy for wounds, and in Lacaune, France, it is always administered by the native people as an antidote for poison. They apply the plant to the stomach of the patient and give him a solution of it to drink as well. The Gaelic word for mistletoe is "an t'nil loc." which means all healer.

In the northeast of Scotland people used to cut withes of mistletoe at the March full moon; these they bent in circles and kept for a year to cure hectic fevers and other troubles. In some they are willing to stake their lives parts of Germany the mistletoe is especially esteemed as a remedy for the ailments of children, who sometimes wear it hung around the neck as an amulet

In Sweden on Midsummer eve mistletoe is diligently sought after, the people believing it to be possessed of many mystic qualities, and that if a sprig of it is attached to the ceiling of the dwelling house, the horse's stall or the cow's crib, the trolls will then be powerless to injure either man or beast. Branches of the plant are commonly seen in farm houses hanging from the celling to protect the dwellings from all harm, but especially from fire, and persons afflicted with the falling sickness think they can ward off all attacks of the malady by carrying about with them a knife which has a handle of mistletoe.

A Swedish remedy for other complaints is to hang a sprig of mistletoe round the sufferer's neck or to make him wear on his finger a ring made from the plant. Merecyer they fashion divining rods of mistletoe or of four different kinds of wood, one of which must be mistletce. The treasure seeker places the rod on the ground after sundown, and when it rests directly over the treasure the rod begins to move as if it were alive. Like their Swedish neighbors, many

German peasants consider the mistletoe a powerful charm against evil spirits. A similar belief seems to have lingered among the Romans, whose religion at a very early date was some what similar to that of the Druids. When Aeneas descended into Hades he sigars, I expect," said the shopkeeper. gathered to protect bimself from the There is a belief that on Christmas the sweetness from all songs, the infernal powers a branch of mistletoe. which Vergil calls the golden bough.

MISTLETOE HISTORY "IS F () WHAT YOU CAN GIVE VALUE OF A CHILD'S GIFTS Those Made With Their Own Hands

"Is 'e comin' ternight, mammy? Comin'

Dey's a-astin' me still what dey gwind ter git. En I hurries apas' all de winders I sees,

Case de chilluns espec's dat he'll bring 'em a lot -En dey think he's de same dat de White Folks got.

"Is 'e comin' ternight, mammy? Comin'

Lawd, I wisht in mah soul dat 'e would I wisht in mah soul dat 'e'd come down Lak I useter believe dat 'e sholy would

to buid. Den I set down en wish, en I wish lak I



Why, de chilluns believes! Dey is sho' dat hit so, En dey talk er de things dat he sutten ter bring. Twell dey set up in baid en dess holler en sing. En I tell 'em w'y sho' good ole Santy 'll

Wid a doll en a sled en a railroad en En dey drif off ter sleep wid a smile son dey face. En dey ain' not a cent I kin spaih in de Hit's de las' thing I heah when I tun out

de light:

ternight?" En I laughs wid dem all w'en dey plan whut dey do Wid de things dat he'll bring-en I say hit's all true! En de white chillun up whah I's wukin',

"Is 'e comin' ternight, mammy? Comin'

Dat ole Santy he'll come, en won't miss "Is 'e comin' ternight?" Lawd, I wisht

Dat he's com hyuh en fix up dis 'poblem



Except ye become as a little child ye shall in no wise enter into the joy of Christmas time.



"Do you go to Sunday school now, Georgie?" inquired Georgie's uncle. "Yep: Christmas is comin'!

"Don't you go except just before Christmas?" "Yep; I go just before the summer



In many parts of England the robin is associated with Christmas-tide. where a person is dying, to cheer him, the body, God from the sky.

Helpful Christmas Present Suggestions for Those Who Are Puzzled.

Unabridged Dictionary Will Be Appre clated by Children of Kindergarten Age-Other Suitable Gifts for Young and Old.

> who have requested suggesthe following:

to the child that is not yet out of present. short dresses. It tells in easy words girl who finds it in his or her stock- gift a real gift are there. ing, as the case may be.

Another dainty idea for a child of age. The plot is not so complex and the characters are sufficiently varied to hold the unflagging interest of the little ones. We have in mind a gentleman who gave his little son a dictionary last Christmas, and he assures us that the lad simply devoured

the book.

A pretty present for a child is the clinical report of the county hospital. This comes nicely printed on clean white paper, with bizarre illustrations showing the rise and fall of the temperature, amount of protoids eaten, official count of the germs, statistics as to microbes and many other amusing and entertaining ideas. A rare source of pleasure with this book is to have the little fellows pronounce the long words first the way they are spelled and then read them backward and see what difference, if any, there is in the sound. Some boys would rather do this than go skating.

In the line of pure romance there is nothing more entertaining from Prof. T. L. Escopex's "How the Spectrum Caught On in Saturn." This highly original historical tale tells how the spectrum revealed the secret of Saturn's rings, showing that the planet was warm and dry and that the two rings were for ice water. comes in four large volumes, with 22 pages of logarithmic calculations that are sure to delight young and old.

As a gift book for a member of a temperance family there is nothing pleasanter than "The Complete Barkeeper." This tells exactly what goes into the stuff that men put in their mouths to steal away their brains, and will be of valuable assistance to any person who wishes to apply satisfactory tests and determine whether or not he has been equipped with brains and would inspire larceny.

"One Thousand Ways to Cure a Cold," by Burton Bales, is a beautifully written book, giving all the remedies for cold that were suggested to its author in one day. There are 89 variations of the quinine and whisky treatment, and the other 911 remedies consist of the same prescription without the bitter quinine. This is a good book to have in any house.

"The Servant Question and Its Answer" will deceive many people, but it might do for a gift to a young married couple. The answer is quaintly "Board." WILBUR D. NESBIT.



MORE SLIPPERS COMING.

The time is at hand," said the preacher With wrath showing plain on each feach "When slippers will be Showered down upon me



Life Without Christman To take Christmas out of life, would be to take the perfume out of flowers, eve these birds will sing near a house | color from the rainbow, the soul from |

Teach Good Lessons and Give Inspiration.

If we stop to think about our Christmas giving we realize that a gift means more to the giver than it does to him who receives. If it is given in the proper spirit the donor finds out to the full that it is really 'more blessed to give than to receive," a fact that is lost sight of in an age of the commercial spirit.

With children there is a great educative value in their present giving NUMBER of correspondents if it is encouraged to be really their own giving. If the mother, however, tions of books suitable for simply prepares some little remem-Christmas gifts will find an- brance, and says "Mary, this is your swers to their queries in Christmas present to Aunt Ellen," the gift has no meaning in the thoughts Among the many attractive gift of the young giver. And not only books for very little boys might be has it no meaning, but it becomes mentioned Professor Rausmissen's actually harmful for the reason it pre-Analogy Between the Monogamous sents the idea to the child that the Protoplasm and the Silurian Mole- gift without the giver is really a gift. We can think of no book that | And the child has put no thought or would be a greater source of delight self sacrifice into the giving of that

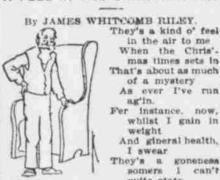
On the other hand, if the child be of eight and ten syllables of the given pocket money which it may consports and pastimes of the protoplas- sider its very own, or, better still, if mic family and draws beautiful moral it is enabled to earn pocket money and lessons from the corpuscles of the is then encouraged to set aside a porcarboniferous era. It is handsomely tion of its very own money for presillustrated with representations of the ent making the idea of true giving is agile animalcule and will be sure to acquired. The sacrifice, the ford delight the heart of the little boy or | thought, the love necessary to make a

The home-made gifts of children have many valuable lessons to teach three or four years is the Unabridged | the young givers. Many lessons in Dictionary. The simplicity of style sewing, raffia, bead-work or painting observed in this interesting narrative may be given under the guise of makrecommends it at once for children ing a gift. In one family, where the tho have reached the kindergarten elder sister had never made gifts, and really never learned to sew well until she was eighteen years of age, the younger sister, a girl of ten, inspired by the example of a small friend, wished to make birthday gifts for her family. Once she asked her mother to teach her how to erochet: another time to scallop, and before she was twelve years old she had become as proficient a little seamstress as one would want to see.

Thus practical lessons are isarned. while the child is inspired with the idea that "Not what we give, but what we share; the gift without the giver is bare.



A FEEL IN THE CHRISTMAS AIR.



And gineral health, I swear They's a goneness somers I can't quite state-A kind o' feel in the air. ney's a feel in the

of a mystery

whilst I gain in

ag'in.

weight

Chris'mas alr goes right To the spot where a man lives at! gives a feller a They ain't no doubt about that! And yit they's some pin-I don't know

what-That follers me here and there And ha'nts and worsles and spares me

A kind o' feel in the air. They's a feel, as I say, in the air that's jest As blamed-on sad as sweet. In the same ra-sho as I feel the best

And am the spryest on my feet They's allus a kind o' sort of a ache That I can't locate nowhere, But it comes with Chris'mas, and no mis-

A kind o' feel in the air.

take-

s it the racket the hildren raise? Why, no! - God Is it the eyes and the cheeks ablaze. Like my own wus is it the bleat o' the

O' the, little toy or the horn? No, no! It is jest the



"They are to be married on Christ mas day. Would you call that 'Yule-tied?' "

Simpson's Christinas

By RENNETS RAND OOLS!" said Mr. Simpson.

"Idiots!" he added. "Even if they are my own relatives!" he supplemented with a dogged shake of his partially bald head. The souvenir postal card

which called forth his op-

probrious language had just arrived. "Look at this, will you?" He turned the card over

in his fingers,. "'Peace on earth, good will to men!'" Mr. Simpson read the inscription.

Then he turned it over, "'We want you with us day after tomorrow for a good, old-fashioned family reunion around the festal Christmas board!" he read in three lines of handwriting on the other side of the

card. "There you are!" he exclaimed wrathfully. "There you are, doggone It!"

He waved the card vioently around in the air at arm's length s he continued muttering.

"They send you one of these paper doilies from a madhouse dining room," went on Mr. Simpson to the listening walls of the room of which he was the only occupant-"with 'Peace on earth, good-will to men' on one side, and on the other an invitation to take a sixhour trip out into the slushy country for a rotten meal with a gang of people who drive me crazy at the thought of being related to, every time I see 'em."

"Here I am," he said, regretfully shaking his head over his hard lot in life, "here I am, planning that I'll be comfortable for at least one Christmas, anyway. Family away in Florida for the winter: me here all alone, to do just as I like-and now along comes this-this summons to spend a day being miserable!"

Suddenly Mr. Simpson sat up straight in his chair.

"By jerry!" he ejaculated suddenly. By jerry-what's to hinder me from being the martyr in the cause? What's to prevent me from putting an end to this dad-dinged practice-huh?

"Suppose I don't go to this Christmas reunion? Suppose I stay home here and enjoy my day of peace on earth in the way I want to? What will happen?

"Why, next year there won't be a single, solltary soul of my relations that will get together in an affair of this kind. I'll have pointed the way-I'll be the example they've been waiting to follow away from custom-and, by jerry, I'll bet you the thing will

"And I'll be responsible for it!" added Mr. Simpson joyously-"if I



stay away, just this once, from this Christmas party I've been invited to!" "And think of the good I'm doing to other people, too!" he added. "How grateful the public will be to me for pointing out the way to their own release from this idiotic custom of eac-

rificing themselves! "Why, I shouldn't wonder if there would be a statue erected to me as the first man who stayed away from a family reunion at this holiday! I can see it now, labeled: "The People's Santa Claus-He Gave Us What We Wanted Most for Christmas!"

And so, in pleasant reflection upon the perfection of his plan as he had carried it out. Mr. Simpson's thoughts ran until Christmas morning.

It was Mr. Simpson's idea to eat his Christmas dinner, ordered in from a nearby restaurant, in the solitude of his own home, bare as it was of his

At one o'clock the waiter brought in the heavy tray. Mr. Simpson superintended the arrangement of its contents on the table in the dining room. And it was just one-fifteen, as he stood rubbing his hands at the prospect of eating alone on Christmas for the first time in his life-when the

doorbell rang. "Doggone it!" burst out Mr. Simpson. "What's that?"

For a moment he decided not to open the door. Then he changed his mind and went downstairs, two at a time. It might be some bad news from his absent family.

He threw open the portal-and staggered back into the hall.

And after him trooped a gayly shouting and laughing party of sixteen -Mr. Simpson's relatives! "We came to eat our Christmas din-

ner here!" cried one of his aunts. "You poor man-we knew you'd be all alone!" gushed a first cousin.

"We didn't want you to eat your Christmas dinner all by yourself," chortled another female relation. "so we brought ours here in baskets to ent with you!"

Mr. Simpson looked over the crowd still streaming into his front hall. His lips pursed tightly as he led the way to the dining room.

But all he said, unintelligibly to his

unexpected guests, was: 'Well, I guess they won't put up

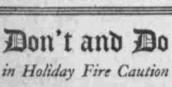
that statue of me as Santa Claus this (Copyright, The Frank A. Munsey Co.)

Obstacles Everywhere. Life is like walking along a crowded street; there always seem to be fewer obstacles to getting along on the opposite pavement; and yet if one crosses over matters are rarely mend-

ed.-Thomas Huxley.

Try This Sponger (meeting acquaintance)-"Do you know, old man, I really be-Heve I'm losing my nerve? I'm getting so I hate to ask any one for a

to tremble."-- Boston Times.

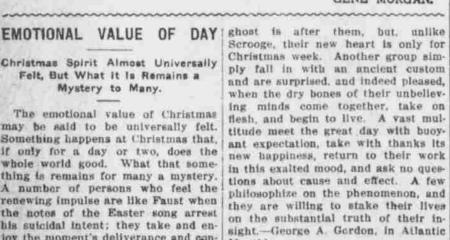


tree with paper, cotton or flimsy

Do not use cotton to represent snow, Do not permit children to light

Bo not place Christmas tree near window curtains or gas fixtures. Use metallic tinsel and non-inflam-Use asbestos fiber to represent snow.

Have an extinguisher or a few buckets full of water near the tree, ready for use in an emer-





Uan you suggest something for me to get for my wife for Christmas?" he asked of the shopkeeper. "You'd better get her a box of

She was in here this morning and

bought a face parasol for you."

E decorate our homes with HiT'S de las' thing I heah when I tun ternight?